

Claims

1.-14. (cancelled)

15. (new) A tool for configuring, designing, or programming, the tool comprising:

- a storage unit for storing a control program;
- an operating unit for inputting operator commands;
- a computer; and

- a display for displaying a graphic user interface having a first navigation area, a second navigation area, and a data area, wherein

- the first navigation area is an area, in which the sub-tasks and work steps associated with a project can be displayed in a hierarchically organized manner, wherein

- the second navigation area is an area, in which individual work steps associated with the project can be displayed in their processing sequence, and wherein

- a required work step can be selected in the first navigation area and/or in the second navigation area.

16. (new) The tool according to Claim 15, wherein the first navigation area is an area with a tree structure.

17. (new) The tool according to Claim 15, wherein the first navigation area provides an overview of the project in a tree structure.

18. (new) The tool according to Claim 16, wherein the first navigation area provides an overview of the project in a tree structure.

19. (new) The tool according to Claim 15, wherein the elements displayed in the first navigation area are displayed in the form of an alphanumeric display.

20. (new) The tool according to Claim 16, wherein the elements displayed in the first navigation area are displayed in the form of an alphanumeric display.

21. (new) The tool according to Claim 17, wherein the elements displayed in the first navigation area are displayed in the form of an alphanumeric display.

22. (new) The tool according to Claim 15, wherein the elements displayed in the second navigation area are each displayed in alphanumeric and graphic form.

23. (new) The tool according to Claim 16, wherein the elements displayed in the second navigation area are each displayed in alphanumeric and graphic form.

24. (new) The tool according to Claim 17, wherein the elements displayed in the second navigation area are each displayed in alphanumeric and graphic form.

25. (new) The tool according to Claim 15, wherein once the required work step has been selected, data associated with said work step is displayed in the data area.

26. (new) The tool according to Claim 15, wherein once the required work step has been selected, the alphanumeric display in the first navigation area corresponding to the selected work step and the alphanumeric and graphic display in the second navigation area corresponding to the selected work step are visually marked.

27. (new) The tool according to Claim 15, wherein the tool is adapted for configuring, designing, or programming an installation or technical composition.

28. (new) The tool according to Claim 22, wherein the data displayed in the data area is displayed in the form of a list containing selectable list elements.

29. (new) The tool according to Claim 28, wherein a button is assigned to each selectable list element, which can be clicked on to superimpose a window corresponding to an assistant on the current display, the window containing help information or prompting the inputting of parameters.

30. (new) The tool according to Claim 15, wherein status indicators are provided in each of the navigation areas, the status indicators containing information about whether or not a work step has already been completed.

31. (new) The tool according to Claim 30, wherein the status indicators further contain information about whether or not the data selection made in a work step has resulted in a non-permitted status.

32. (new) A method for configuring, designing, and/or programming an installation, the method comprising:

- providing a graphic user interface displayed on a display, the graphic user interface having at least two navigation areas and a data area, wherein a first navigation area being an area in which the sub-tasks and work steps associated with a project can be displayed in a hierarchically organized manner and wherein a second navigation area being an area in which individual work steps are displayed in their processing sequence;

- selecting a work step by navigating in the first or in the second navigation area;

- visually marking display elements associated with the selected work step in the first and in the second navigation area; and

- displaying data associated with the selected work step in the data area.

33. (new) A digital storage medium comprising a control program adapted for interacting with a computer, an operator unit, and a display for performing the method according to Claim 32.